

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the brief description of the drawings, please replace page 11, lines 10-14, with the following amended lines:

--- Figure 33 shows an exploded view of the data and/or communications terminal connector of Fig. 32;

Figure 34 shows an assembled view of the terminal connector of Fig. 32; and

Figure 35 shows a perspective view of an extension cable incorporating a power supply distribution apparatus. ---

Please replace the last paragraph, on page 41, lines 1-10, with the following amended paragraph:

--- The described embodiments of the track section may be particularly used as a fixed power distribution apparatus, with the combination of track sections and connectors as shown in Figure 1 being connected to a suitable supporting surface, such as a wall or movable partition or furniture item. However, the described embodiments may also be used in a movable manner, for example as an extension cable (as illustrated in Figure 35) with a single track section being provided with two end connectors, one end connector being connected to a cable having a suitable plug at its free end, in the

P25922.A07

manner of a normal extension cable. One or more power point connectors may then be attached to the track section according to need.---

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

As an initial matter, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner, Mr. Chandrika Prasad, for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicant's attorney, Mr. Enoch E. Peavey, on September 12, 2006. During the interview, support (in the present disclosure) for the features added to the claims in the previous Response dated May 1, 2006 was discussed. In this regard, the Examiner agreed that the amendments to the claims made in the previous Response did not introduce new matter.

In particular, Applicant's Attorney pointed out, and the Examiner agreed, that at least page 12, line 21, through page 13, line 11, which describes "[a]n earth spring 160 formed from flexible, resilient conductive material is provided in the cavity 150. The earth spring 160 is connectable to earth and has a flat, elongate, sheet-like central portion 162 with wings 164, 166 projecting arcuately away from the portion 162. Each wing 164, 166 is divided into a plurality of wing members 168, 170 individually attached to the portion 162 as shown in Fig. 6. The wings 164, 166 rest in elongate slots 172, 174 which hold the ends of the wings in position. The surface 162 projects outwardly to cover slot 110 just below flaps 154. The cavities 122, 124 further have projecting edges 176, 178 which engage the sides of wings 164, 166 and provide further support for the earth spring 160. The earth spring 160 is locally resiliently displaceable from the position shown in Fig. 2 to a position in which the central portion 162 is depressed downwardly to, in the limit, abut against a projection 152 of the base 120. In this position, the ends of the wings 164, 166 remain in the elongate slots 172, 174. The earth spring 160 in this position allows access to the electrical conductors 126, 128 by

the power point connector 400", provides adequate support for the amendments made in the previous Response.

Prior to discussing the merits of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicant's Attorney pointed out to the Examiner (i.e., the Examiner conducting the interview of September 12, 2006) that, during a previous conversation with Ms. Phuongchi NGUYEN (the junior Examiner), the junior Examiner indicated that she intended to cite to HUMPHREYS (U.S. Patent No. 4,243,284) on Page 4 of the Official Action dated February 1, 2006, instead of TAN (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,516). Therefore, reference numerals on Page 4 of the Official Action, dated February 1, 2006, actually refer to features of HUMPHREYS. Further, Applicant's Attorney pointed out to the Examiner that (as in the Official Action dated February 1, 2006) the junior Examiner mistakenly cites to TAN on page 5 of the Official Action dated July 11, 2006. Accordingly, the Applicant's Attorney and the Examiner addressed the features of the present disclosure in relation to HUMPHREYS.

Further, during the interview, Applicant's Attorney pointed out, and the Examiner agreed, that ROGERS (U.S. Patent No. 5,688,132) discloses a grounding conductor (G) that is very different structurally from the conductive member of the present disclosure. In this regard, Applicant's Attorney pointed out that the grounding conductor (G) of ROGERS is received in a central slot (as shown in FIG. 2), and is deflected by the plug stud when the plug is inserted into the opening. Further, the ground plug (10g) of RGOERS is NOT positioned such that it can prevent the other prongs (P1 and P2) from contacting the wire conductors L1 and L2. Thus, the Examiner agreed that ROGERS does not disclose the conductive member being resiliently displaceable by the

connector between a first position in which the member prevents access of the connector to the at least one conductor and a second position in which the member allows said connector to be electrically connected to the at least one conductor, as generally recited in claims 1 and 82.

In regard to HUMPHREYS, Applicant's Attorney pointed out, and the Examiner agreed, that HUMPHREYS discloses the contact and earth pins (which the junior Examiner previously characterized as an elongated) as being part of the plug body (70) and NOT the conduit 29 (see Col. 7, lines 32-44 and FIG. 4). Thus, the Examiner agreed that HUMPHREYS does not disclose, inter alia, a conduit including at least one elongate conductor, and a conductive member disposed between the opening and the at least one conductor and arranged to be electrically connected to a connector, wherein the conductive member is resiliently displaceable by said connector between a first position in which the member prevents access of said connector to the at least one conductor and a second position in which the member allows said connector to be electrically connected to the at least one conductor, as generally recited in claims 1 and 82.

However, the Examiner indicated that an updated search would be conducted before making a decision on allowance. Also, in any event, the Examiner agreed that the Finality of the previous Office Action will be withdrawn when the present Response is received.